BWC MSFT TCI
Ameriflux Working Group Initial Meeting
April 26, 2006.

Attendees:
Deb Agarwal (LBNL)
Dennis Baldocchi (UCB)
Mattias Faulk (UCD)
Susan Hubbard (UCB)
Alexander Knohl (UCB)
Beverly Law (OSU)
Gretchen Miller (UCB)
Matt Rodriguez (LBNL)

Meeting Notes

1) Introductions.
2) Update on submitted BWC NSF Cyberinfrastructure Proposal. The proposal is in the review process and we should hear something by June of 2006.
3) Presentation by Catharine van Ingen. The presentation began with Catharine sharing a powerpoint deck that described the dataset (of Mattias Faulk) that she and Deb began working with, the experience and lessons learned in working with this dataset and loading it into the SQL Server database. The presentation can be viewed by clicking HERE. Catharine and Deb then demonstrated the developing data access and plotting capability using Proclarity. The prototype already allows query of a data cube derived from the SQL Server database and allows interactive production of bar, pie, and line plots of the various climate and carbon variables (and their associated statistics) across different time windows and Ameriflux locations.
4) Discussion and Feedback. The working group proceeded to ask for different displays or comparisons, which Catharine and Deb produced in real-time. Several suggestions were made, such as the need to down-select sites for scientific investigations based on multiple criteria and the need to eventually expand the prototype to enable spatial comparison and visualization across sites. Suggestions about annotation (such as field measurements that are questionable due to the instrument being obscured or moved in the field) and about other helpful displays were made. Catharine suggested that she will keep a list of such requests and then will work with the group to prioritize the list, identify the easiest/hardest to implement, and decide which components should be built into the prototype. A few of the attendees loaded Proclarity onto their laptops and Deb instructed them on use of the tool so they can experiment with the tool.
5) Portal presentation by Deb. The computational and data portal work is still early but an initial prototype portal is starting to take shape. Deb demonstrated this portal which currently provides an announcements area, access to the Ameriflux data in the database, and links to other BWC resources. Deb also discussed some of the next steps planned for the portal.
6) Near Future Plans. The working group will continue to interact by email, and is tentatively planning the next working group meeting in June. Bev and her students may join this meeting via telecom. Bev and Dennis requested that the BWC Microsoft

TCI project be shared with Ameriflux scientists at the October Annual Meeting in Boulder, CO. The group felt that by this time, the prototype would be ready for demonstration to and input from a wider group, and that this would be an ideal opportunity to ask for this input.

7) Next phase. Deb discussed loading the datacube on the BWC server so researchers can begin to use it. The portal will also be available on the BWC server shortly. Deb will be providing a blog within the portal where users can discuss their experience in using the portal and the data cube via Proclarity. Deb and Catharine will be collecting feedback and recommendations regarding the tools. Feedback can be provided via the blog or via e-mail.
8) Next functionality planned. Catharine will be contracting with a firm to build a data access web page, which will show what data is available in the database and allow users to select data. Deb and Matt will be working on ingesting the rest of the data from the Mattias data set into the database and providing researchers with a data cube that provides access to the data via Proclarity.